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# ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2013 — September 30, 2014

October 30, 2014

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# **ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACTIVITY**

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***(October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014)***

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**October 30, 2014**

### **DISCLAIMER**

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACOFADE	Colombian Association of Law Schools
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution ( <i>Medios alternativos de solución de conflictos</i> )
AGO	Colombian Attorney General's Office ( <i>Fiscalía General de la Nación</i> )
AJA	Access to Justice Activity (or the “Project”)
ANSPE	National Program for the Elimination of Extreme Poverty
APP	<i>Alianza Público – Privada</i>
CAPIV	<i>Centro de Atención Penal Integral a Víctimas</i>
CAV	Victims Attention Center ( <i>Centro de Atención a Víctimas</i> )
CECAR	<i>Corporación Universitaria del Caribe</i>
CEJ	<i>Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia</i>
CISPA	Inter-Institutional Commission for the Criminal Accusatory System ( <i>Comisión Interinstitucional de Seguimiento al Sistema Penal Acusatorio</i> )
CRI	Centers for Information Reception
CNMH	National Center for Historical Memory ( <i>Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica</i> )
CONPES	National Council for Economic and Social Policies ( <i>Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social</i> )
CSDI	Colombia Strategic Development Initiative
CSJ	<i>Consejo Superior de la Judicatura</i> (Superior Judicial Council)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CZs	Consolidation Zones
DADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and Law
DNP	Department of National Planning

EC	Equity Conciliator
EJRLB	Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial School ( <i>Escuela Judicial Rodrigo Lara Bonilla</i> )
EPM	<i>Empresas Públicas de Medellín</i>
FIP	<i>Fundación Ideas para la Paz</i>
FM	<i>Fundación Mineros</i>
FY	Fiscal Year
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GOC	Government of Colombia
HRPIII	USAID/Colombia Human Rights Program III
ICBF	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare
IMP	<i>Iniciativa de Mujeres para la Paz</i>
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex
JH	Justice House
LJC	Local Justice Coordinating Committees
LJS	Local Justice System
LLR	Lower Level Result
LR	Land Restitution
LRC	Land Restitution Courts
LRO	Land Restitution Observatory
LRT	Land Restitution Tribunals
LRU	Land Restitution Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development ( <i>Ministerio de Agricultura and Desarrollo Rural</i> )
MCCS	Massive Criminal Complaint Sessions
MFPC	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
MICE	Methodology to Implement the Community Conciliation

MITC	Ministry of Information Technology and Communications ( <i>Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones</i> )
MJL	Ministry of Justice and Law ( <i>Ministerio of Justicia y del Derecho</i> )
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGC	National Gender Commission of the Judicial Branch ( <i>Comisión Nacional de Género</i> )
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NILM	National Institute for Legal Medicine
NPCC	National Program for Coexistence Centers ( <i>Programa Nacional Centros de Convivencia Ciudadana</i> )
NPEC	National Program for Equity Conciliation ( <i>Programa Nacional de Conciliación en Equidad</i> )
NPJH	National Program for Justice Houses
NUCSJ	National University's School for Community Justice
NWA	Network of Women Advocates (Lawyers and Psychologists)
PAB	Project Advisory Board
PACE	Contact Center for Conciliation in Equity
PISCC	Integral Plan for Security and Citizens Peaceful Coexistence
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
SAVU	Attorney General's Office Sub Directorate for Attention to Victims and Users
SGC	Sectional Gender Committees of the Judicial Branch
SICJWEB	Justice House Web-Based Information System
SPs	AJA Strategic Partners
SPA	Criminal Accusatory System ( <i>Sistema Penal Acusatorio</i> )
UACT	The Special Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation ( <i>Unidad Administrativa Especial para la Consolidación Territorial</i> )
UARIV	National Unit for the Assistance and Comprehensive Reparation of Victims
USP	University Strategic Partner

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Access to Justice Activity (AJA), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is a four-year contract that was awarded to Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc. on February 1, 2013. This Second Annual Report describes activities carried out during the period from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

At the regional level, the AJA has fully operational offices in Villavicencio, Tumaco, Ibagué, Cauca, Montería, and Sincelejo, all of which have excellent relationships with their local counterparts and university strategic partners (USPs). The AJA is in the process of creating its seventh and final regional office, to be located in Santander de Quilichao. Key regional achievements include the creation and strengthening of 28 Local Justice Coordinating Committees (LJCs), the deployment of 32 mobile Justice Houses and Legal Brigades that served more than 3,800 people, and the initiation of equity conciliator certification training and refresher courses. Additionally, AJA regional staff and strategic partners (SPs) have identified barriers to access to justice and have defined actions to overcome them through the LJCs. By addressing justice sector problems through the LJCs, local institutions and actors become empowered to address issues such as access to justice for women, rural communities, and ethnic groups affected by the armed conflict.

Under Component One, Justice Houses and ADR, the AJA continued to assist the Ministry of Justice and Law (MJL) in structuring a Public-Private Alliance (APP) proposal to use future Government of Colombia (GOC) financing sources to construct and maintain 50 Justice Houses (JHs) in or near the consolidation zones (CZs). At USAID's request, the AJA defined a Justice House Exit Strategy, which included the definition, approval, and initial application of the Justice House Development and Sustainability Index; 22 JHs were evaluated using this index, which should identify at least four or five as "sustainable." Additionally, the AJA made great advances in the design and implementation of strategic pilot projects in three JHs, which incorporate the National Unit for the Assistance and Comprehensive Reparation of Victims (UARIV) and the National Justice House Program (NJHP) web-based information system (SICJWEB).

The AJA supported 18 mobile JHs during Year Two. Of these, 13 were mobilized in rural areas, four served primarily Afro-Colombian populations, and one included members of indigenous communities. The mobile JHs provided a total of 1,832 people with justice services or assistance, the majority of whom were women (69%).

With regard to equity conciliation, the AJA and the National University's School of Community Justice (NUCSJ) signed a subcontract in December 2013 to implement the MJL's Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation (MICE) training in Southern Córdoba, Northern Cauca, and Southern Valle de Cauca. In an effort to establish adequate

impact measurement and monitoring mechanisms, the AJA gathered conciliation agreements in each municipality where JHs have a working relationship with equity conciliators (ECs). A total of 1,048 agreements from 16 JHs are on file and will serve as the baseline for a new AJA performance indicator. Finally, the AJA promoted community conciliation with municipal authorities in seven of ten locations where the NUCSJ is completing the MICE process: Pradera and Florida in Valle del Cauca; Miranda, Corinto, Toribío, and Caloto in Cauca; and Caucasia in Bajo Cauca, Antioquia.

In Component Two, Gender, the AJA has advanced in its work with the Judicial Branch's National Gender Commission (NGC), and has formed excellent working relationships with its constituent members. During Year Two, the AJA helped organize four Regional Roundtables (*Conversatorios*) on gender and justice themes, working in close coordination with the Judicial Branch's Sectional Gender Committees (SGCs). Additionally, the AJA worked with targeted SGCs to draft 2014 work plans, which include important activities such as case-based training and accompaniment, low cost campaigns, gender workshops, victims' forums, and the design, publication and dissemination of gender-related materials.

The AJA also made significant progress in strengthening the Network of Women's Advocates (NWA), which now has 112 members. During Year Two, the NWA provided ongoing legal, psychological and social accompaniment services to more than 200 victims of gender-based violence (GBV). The AJA also supported Massive Criminal Complaint Sessions (MCCS) in Sincelejo, Sucre; La Cocha, Nariño; and Valledupar, Cesar. A total of 210 victims of sexual violence participated. The MCCS model, designed with extensive AJA support, aims to encourage women victims to submit their criminal complaints in individual rape cases and to register as victims with the UARIV.

The AJA trained approximately 230 justice operators and members of civil society organizations (CSOs) on gender and justice issues through its subcontract with the *Alianza de Género*, managed by *Sisma Mujer*. The campaign, *Sin Mi Puño y Con Mi Letra*, was adapted for Montes de María and Southern Tolima and will be launched in Year Three.

The *Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia* (CEJ), an AJA strategic partner, prepared a methodological tool to be used by its Observatory of Sentences to identify the effective application of a gender perspective in judicial decisions. The instrument lays out High Courts' standards and jurisprudence, as well as obligations under international treaties. This instrument has been adopted by the NGC and will be used by the Judicial Training School to train judges and determine other gender training needs.

The AJA coordinated with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to plan two new Victim Assistance Centers, or *Centro de Atención Penal Integral a Víctimas* (CAPIVs), in Tumaco, Nariño and Chaparral, Tolima. This process was delayed by the restructuring of the AGO, but is back on track, in large part because of the recent creation of a Sub-Directorate for Attention to Victims and Users (SAVU). The SAVU is responsible for the design and operation of victims' attention models. Additionally, at the AGO's request, the

AJA helped draft a protocol mandated by the Victims and Land Restitution Law; the AJA implemented related training activities to improve the prosecution of sexual violence cases.

In Component Three, Justice Reform, the Land Restitution Observatory (LRO) was launched with AJA support. The LRO monitors the judicial phase of land restitution and victims' reparation by measuring court and tribunal coverage, due process, and judge and magistrate effectiveness. Based on LRO recommendations, Land Restitution Courts (LRCs) and Land Restitution Tribunals (LRTs) adopted procedural reforms to increase efficiency. The AJA, through the CEJ, assisted with the creation of four regional LROs to decentralize problem-solving approaches for land restitution procedures and outcomes.

The AJA helped land restitution officials design a unique management model based on inter-operability, zero paper, knowledge management, security and transparency. The AJA encouraged increased cooperation, participation and ownership among judicial land restitution actors by supporting the creation of five permanent National Thematic Committees within the Judicial Branch: (1) security; (2) training; (3) processes and procedures; (4) information technology; and (5) inter-institutional coordination. While the AJA financed most of the committees' work during Year Two, the AJA secured GOC financing for their ongoing work in 2015.

With regard to the regional implementation of the Criminal Accusatory System (SPA), the AJA supported the training of 302 formal and administrative justice sector actors in criminal investigation techniques. Additionally, AJA consultants evaluated SPA education and suggested improving curricula and teaching methodology at 11 universities in the CZs. At USAID's request, the AJA ensured the sustainability of inter-university moot court competitions by creating a strategy for the effective transfer of this activity to local actors in association with the Colombian Association of Law Schools (ACOFADE).

The AJA also made considerable advances in providing assistance to the MJL in its effort to implement the local justice system model in targeted CZs. Efforts have focused on increasing access to justice, especially in rural areas where justice services have historically been limited. The model includes the formal, administrative and traditional justice sectors.

To date, the AJA has helped strengthen six LJC's in the Department of Meta and has assisted in the creation and strengthening of 22 additional LJC's in other targeted regions. The AJA, in conjunction with USAID/*Colombia Responde*, supported the Meta LJC's by providing a Diploma Course on local justice systems. A total of 39 justice operators graduated from the 160-hour Diploma Course. In addition, the LJC's carried out mobile justice and legal aid brigades which offered legal services to more than 2000 people in rural areas. Counseling and legal representation services reached vulnerable populations in rural communities through new virtual legal clinics.

Finally, the AJA supported the development of ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Systems in order to improve court administration in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar. AJA consultants have worked with counterparts to outline current operational strengths and

weaknesses and adopt improvement plans through re-engineered processes. Justice providers created quality committees to monitor and evaluate implementation of these plans based on clear indicators of success. In Carmen and Cartagena, improved procedures are already functioning efficiently in the LRCs and the LRT.

# I.0 POLICY ISSUES

## I.1 BROAD CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

During the second year of implementation, the AJA consulted extensively with government counterparts, non-governmental stakeholders, USAID-funded projects, and donors regarding each of the AJA components and the Colombia Strategic Development Initiative (CSDI) regions. The goal of this outreach was to establish a mutual understanding of the AJA objectives, to discuss programmatic needs for Fiscal Year 2014, and to build and strengthen strategic partnerships and relationships.

## I.2 COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONORS, USAID PROJECTS AND US AGENCIES

During the second year of implementation, the AJA extensively coordinated with other USAID-funded projects, as described below:

- *La Macarena*: A Diploma Program on the Local Justice System (LJS) was completed in la Macarena with assistance from USAID/*Colombia Responde*. The LJS Diploma Program was implemented by the University of Meta, with extensive AJA technical assistance. Thirty-nine justice operators (judges, prosecutors, defenders, municipal family and human rights officers, police inspectors, and ECs) from the six AJA-targeted municipalities attended and graduated from the 120-hour Diploma Program in May 2014.



- *Bajo Cauca*: An agreement was reached with the USAID/Colombia Human Rights program (HRP III) in Bajo Cauca to coordinate activities to re-activate the Regional Working Group for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In September, the AJA and the HRP III program in Bajo Cauca agreed to work together to support the initiatives proposed by the Municipal Women, Children, and Adolescents

Workgroup in matters related to sexual violence and the lack of forensic medicine in the region.

- *Southern Córdoba*: The AJA and USAID/Colombia *Responde* joined efforts to carry out a workshop with the Embera Katío community from Alto Sinú to discuss the indigenous jurisdiction. This workshop was carried out to prepare for the eventual creation of the LJC in Tierralta. This event was also supported by the Mayor's Office of Tierralta and the Ministry of Interior. Participants included 89 Embera Katío governors.



**Workshop with the Ember Katío Community**

- *Tumaco*: The AJA is closely collaborating with USAID/Colombia *Responde*, HRP III, and the International Organization for Migration to streamline victim assistance initiated by the LJC and boost coordination among the different actors in Tumaco.

In addition to advances in coordination with other USAID/Colombia programs, accomplishments with private entities include:

- The *Fundación Mineros S.A. (FM)* signed a letter of understanding regarding support for access to justice activities in the municipalities of Zaragoza, Nechí and El Bagre, where the FM works. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth a general framework for cooperation with the private sector on various activities in Bajo Cauca to improve access to justice. The topics that the AJA and the FM will carry out in coordination include: 1) strengthening inter-institutional coordination; 2) strengthening LJSs and LJC; 3) carrying out legal justice brigades; 4) strengthening the region's NWA; 5) training and strengthening ECs; and 6) implementing access to justice outreach activities.
- The AJA made progress in negotiating an agreement with *Empresas Públicas de Medellín* to provide psycho-social support to gender-based violence victims within the framework of the LJC including: 1) training for psycho-social teams in the municipalities of Valdivia, Ituango, and Briceño; 2) training of administrative justice operators and ECs; 3) replication of training processes and courses for justice operators; 4) increasing the articulation between the psycho-social and virtual legal clinics and the digital kiosks of the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (MITC); and 5) support for the creation of a transitional rehabilitation center for youth offenders.

- The AJA continues to work closely with ANSPE in all our regions. During Year Two, the AJA and ANSPE agreed to coordinate rural legal brigades with participation of *Red Unidos* families. ANSPE, in addition to guaranteeing the participation of these families in the brigades, supported the convocation of the brigades and helped provide information and guidance to the beneficiaries of the brigades.

## 2.0 REGIONAL ASPECTS

### 2.1 PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- During Year Two, the AJA was active in 30 municipalities within six AJA-targeted CZs. On average, each municipality and corresponding local authorities received three visits from regional advisors. These visits allowed the project to coordinate with local initiatives.
- The Project has a strong presence and is well respected in all regions of operation. A strong partnership has been formed among the AJA, the UACT, and University Strategic Partners. Regional teams continue to maintain an open dialogue regarding activities to be carried out departmental, municipal and regional justice actors. This cooperation has created trust and local ownership, which will help ensure sustainability.
- The AJA is in the process of opening its seventh and final regional office in Santander de Quilichao, in the Northern Cauca and Southern Valle del Cauca region. The AJA has made contacts at the University of Cauca, which will most likely be the USP in the region. The University of Cauca has shown great interest in collaborating with the Project.
- AJA-supported LJC have been operating in 28 municipalities since the first quarter of Year Two. The implementation of LJC has helped strengthen coordination among territorial entities, judicial actors, and the Project. Municipal Government Secretaries are extremely important actors at the municipal level and attend almost all of the LJC meetings.
- The AJA and Strategic Partners have collectively assessed the principal problems in the justice sector and the barriers to access to justice, and have defined actions to overcome these barriers through the LJC. In doing so, local institutions and actors are empowered to develop strategies, including the provision of trainings or institutional strengthening activities, in order to improve access to justice for women, rural communities, and ethnic groups affected by the armed conflict.



*LJC meeting in Ituango, Bajo Cauca*

- During Year Two gender and GBV was a central theme for LJC activity. LJC's also focused on collaborating with the afro-Colombian community (in seven municipalities) and indigenous groups (in fourteen municipalities with the presence of *resguardos*). With AJA assistance, the LJC's have built open and healthy dialogues with indigenous communities including the Pijao and Nasa groups in South Tolima, the Embera Katío and Zenú in Southern Córdoba, the Zenú in Montes de María, the Awa and Epidara Siapidara in Tumaco, and the Emberá Chami in Bajo Cauca and the Macarena regions.
- The LJC's prioritized training and increasing inter-institutional coordination in the Accusatory Criminal Justice System; as a result, the AJA carried out six workshops with approximately 300 justice operators (judges, prosecutors, police inspectors, etc.) from 30-targeted municipalities.
- The LJC's were supported in La Macarena through a Diploma Course on the LJS, provided in coordination with and funding from USAID/*Colombia Responde*. Thirty-nine justice operators graduated from the Diploma Program.

## 2.2 PRINCIPAL CHALLENGES

- During Year Two, the demand for greater AJA presence in the municipalities where the Project is active increased, especially from the LJC's. Even though this high level of demand is positive, there have been difficulties in certain areas. For example, in Bajo Cauca, AJA personnel is not sufficient to adequately cover all ten municipalities, and in Southern Córdoba there were serious security concerns during much of the reporting period.
- Creating alliances with the private sector has provided many opportunities for learning. There is a lack of a broad range of private actors working in the municipalities where the Project has a presence. In addition, AJA regions are in CZs where there has traditionally been a strong presence of illegally armed actors and where proving corporate ownership is difficult, thereby impeding due diligence. Finally, the majority of the companies in the regions where the project operates are small and do not have the resources to participate in local justice initiatives.

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The AJA is in full operation in 30 municipalities throughout Colombia, with regional offices located in Montería, Villavicencio, Ibagué, Tumaco, Sincelejo, and Caucasia. Each AJA regional office is fully staffed with two advisors and one administrative assistant who work in coordination with the Component One, Two and Three Coordinators and the rest of

the national staff. The AJA expects to open a seventh regional office in Santander de Quilichao, for the Northern Cauca region, at the beginning of Year Three and has made initial contacts with the University of Cauca, which will most likely be our USP in the region. The University has shown great interest in the Project.

As of September 30, 2014, the AJA had completed two separate regional strategic planning sessions for Year Three with its regional teams, the UACT and other partners. During those sessions, the Third Annual Work Plans were initiated and shared with other regions. The planning exercise demonstrated strong cohesion and coordination between the AJA and its regional partners.

### ***Barriers to Access to Justice Documents***

By the end of Year Two, the Project had completed the following Barriers to Access to Justice Documents in AJA regions:

<b>AJA Barriers to Access to Justice Documents</b>	<b>Date</b>
Barriers to Access to Justice Document (Bajo Cauca updated)	January 2014
Diagnosis of the Barriers to Access to Justice Document for Southern Córdoba	March 2014
Diagnosis of the Barriers to Access to Justice Document for Nudo de Paramillo (Briceño, Anorí, Ituango and Valdivia)	May 2014
Diagnosis of the Barriers to Access to Justice Document for Tumaco	July 2014

The Barriers to Access to Justice Documents were presented to the Project Advisory Boards (PABs), the LJC's, and local justice actors in each region. They have become an important guide for prioritizing the LJC's' activities, identifying requirements to strengthen the institutional capacity in the municipalities, and the basis for defining strategies to overcome the barriers to access to justice.

The Barriers to Access to Justice Document for Bajo Cauca was updated at the end of Year Two with support from the AJA national strategic partner *Fundación Ideas para La Paz* (FIP) and regional teams. Updating the document included conducting interviews with justice operators and focus groups. The completion of this document was not an easy task, as the Bajo Cauca region covers ten municipalities, many of which have serious safety concerns.

### ***Strategic Partners***

AJA USPs actively supported activities so that long-term sustainability of the Project's initiatives are significantly more sustainable in the regions. The subcontract with the University of Sinú in Southern Córdoba was signed at the end of July 2014. This agreement had been held up due to administrative difficulties within the university and concerns about

branding and marking. During the reporting period, the AJA signed subcontracts with the following USPs:

<b>AJA REGIONAL SUBCONTRACTS – YEAR 2</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>University SP</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>
Southern Córdoba	Universidad del Sinú	July 29, 2014
Macarena	Universidad Santo Tomás	October 1, 2013
Southern Tolima	Universidad de Ibagué	September 1, 2013
Tumaco	Universidad de Nariño	October 7, 2013
Montes de María	Corporación Universitaria del Caribe (CECAR)	October 15, 2013
Bajo Cauca	Universidad de Antioquia	October 1, 2013

After extensive evaluation and revision of the Project’s activities in each region, in coordination with USPs and other SPs, the AJA decided to modify all subcontracts during Year Two to include the following:

- *Additional activities:* Additional products were included in the subcontracts. For example, the University of Ibague and CECAR subcontracts were modified to include volunteer mediator activities;
- *Modified products:* SP contracts were modified to include better descriptions of deliverables and clearer product execution guidelines in line with the Project objectives; and
- *Modified budgets:* Budgets were modified to include additional products, change deliverable dates, and update product descriptions and values.

### ***Project Advisory Boards (PABs)***

Through the six Regional Offices, the Project created local PABs to provide guidance, oversight, feedback, and other support to the AJA. In general, PAB members include AJA regional team advisors, representatives from the UACT, the local USP, the Governors’ Offices, and in some cases, other key access to justice actors (such as the Mayor’s Office in Tumaco). (See Attachment 1: Chart Outlining PAB Structure and Number of Meetings Held During Year Two).

During Year Two, the PABs continued to be a key mechanism for promoting regional governmental institution and SP ownership of the processes, thereby ensuring the sustainability of AJA initiatives. In the majority of the regions the PABs met at least once (in many cases more frequently) to discuss Project implementation, assess progress, and in some cases, work on the Third Year Work Plan.

The most dynamic PABs are in those regions where the Departmental Governor's Offices participate and offer their input and support (Antioquia, Nariño, Sucre, Bolívar and Córdoba). In La Macarena and the South Tolima regions, notwithstanding frequent communication with the Governor's Offices, the PABs did not include the participation of its officials in PAB meetings and as such, the AJA is taking measures to strengthen those ties and to make the PABs stronger in these particular regions.

One of the primary functions of the PABs is to analyze the concerns and requests that the LJs raise. For this reason, several PABs have created specialized thematic committees to help define and implement solutions in certain areas. In Year Two, the following thematic committees were created in each region according to the problems identified by the LJs:

## REGIONAL THEMATIC COMMITTEES

Region	Specialist Thematic Committees Created
Bajo Cauca	Gender Issues, Formal Justice, Forensic Medicine, Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF), Ethnic Issues
Montes de María	Gender Issues, Formal Justice
Southern Córdoba	Judicial Police (with Attorney General's Office and related territorial entities)

The creation of these thematic committees greatly facilitated inter-institutional coordination among pertinent regional actors and has resulted in the resolution of many of the difficulties that each region faces. For example:

## REGIONAL THEMATIC COMMITTEE ACHIEVEMENTS

Region	Committee	Achievement
Bajo Cauca	Legal Medicine Technical Committee	Agreement reached with the Mayor's Office and the National Institute of Legal Medicine (NILM) regarding the creation of a NILM office in Cauca.
	ICBF Technical Committee	Requested from the <i>Consejo de Estado</i> a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the <i>Comisarías de Familia</i> and the <i>Defensores de Familia</i> in the youth offenders criminal system to improve victim assistance, define the role of the ICBF, and if necessary, justify requests for additional personnel.
	Gender Technical Committee	Proposal presented for the creation of a Gender Observatory.
Southern Córdoba	Judicial Police Technical Committee	Coordinated LJ priorities and prepared seminar on the SPA held July 16-18, 2014.
	Territorial Entity Committees	Formal requests were generated through this

		committee to establish an equity conciliation program for the region, as well as include concrete access to justice activities in the 2015 municipal budgets.
	Technical Committee with the AGO	
	Agreement reached for the creation of multi-jurisdictional judicial circuit courts in Tierralta and Valencia	

### ***Mobile Justice Brigades***

In order to strengthen rural justice during Year Two, the AJA conducted 32 Mobile Justice Brigades that assisted more than 3,800 people. The AJA Mobile Justice Brigades, organized through the LJsCs, provide legal, psychological, and social accompaniment to victims that live in remote and conflict-stricken areas of Colombia. Through these brigades, assistance was provided on a wide range of matters that negatively affect the region such as domestic violence, humanitarian issues, child support, and psychological counseling. The LJsCs identified areas of support and geographical priorities prior to the Mobile Brigades. The brigades were carried out with extensive support from municipal administrations and in some cases with important logistical support from departmental governments, such as in Antioquia where the Governor's Office financed half of the cost of carrying out the brigades.

### ***Map of Actors***

During Year Two of the Project, the map of actors was completed for the "mountain" municipalities of Bajo Cauca and Southern Córdoba, and the map of Tumaco was updated. The importance of the information compiled by the AJA Regional Offices in the map of actors is that it can be used as a baseline to measure the impact that the Project has had in each region in increasing the presence of the justice sector in targeted municipalities. The map of actors is updated in each region on a yearly basis in coordination with the LJsCs.

### ***Municipal Budget Allocation for Justice Activities***

In several AJA-targeted municipalities, the authorities have included specific access to justice funding in the departments of Antioquia and Sucre. To further encourage this important objective, the AJA will finance consultancies to consolidate budget information and provide technical support to the LJsCs in the design and inclusion of at least one access to justice project in the municipal budgets of each AJA-targeted municipality. The consultants will provide information on: 1) current budget allocations as related to justice related activities; 2) project implementation from the municipal governments in 2013 and 2014; and 3) justice related projects to be included in 2015 budgets. The consultancies will be completed by February 2015.

### ***Departmental Governments***

During Year Two, the AJA continued to work closely with departmental governments as outlined below:

- Macarena: Joint activities to provide information on women's rights and prevention of GBV (April 22, 2014 and May 8, 2014).
- Bajo Cauca: Completion of ten mobile justice house brigades; four meetings on equity conciliation training; three training workshops for a total of 60 gender operators.
- Tumaco: Incorporation of justice as a topic in the Departmental Integral Plan for Security and Citizens Peaceful Co-Existence (PISCC).
- Bolívar: Efforts to complete the allocation of resources for the municipalities of San Jacinto and Carmen de Bolívar to meet LJC demands (COP \$500,000,000 for five municipalities), with emphasis on mediation activities in local schools.
- Sucre: Allocation of resources to build Equity Conciliation Services Offices (PACEs) in the rural zones of Ovejas and San Onofre. In September, supplies were provided to two rural PACEs in the Rincón del Mar area of San Onofre and the San Rafael area of Ovejas.
- Southern Córdoba: In September 2014, mayors met and reached an agreement to strengthen rural inspectors and include resources for access to justice projects in municipal budgets with support from the Córdoba Governor's Office.
- Southern Tolima: The AJA made progress in preparing a departmental meeting of ECs with priority given to municipalities of the region; this meeting is scheduled to take place during the first months of Year Three.

## 3.0 COMPONENT ACTIVITIES

Checchi Consulting's contract with USAID sets forth a detailed results framework along with delineated project activities and sub-activities. To facilitate reporting accomplishments on the expected results, this Second Annual Report addresses the activities established by the contract, organized around the Project's three components:

1. Justice Houses and ADR;
2. Gender; and
3. Justice Reform.

A summary of the most important activities and achievements, as well as challenges, is provided below.

### 3.1 COMPONENT ONE – JUSTICE HOUSES AND ADR

#### Principal Achievements

- The AJA assisted the MJL in structuring a Public-Private Alliance proposal to use future GOC financing sources to construct and maintain 50 JHs in or near the CZs.
- Definition, approval and initial application of the Justice House Development and Sustainability Index and 22 JHs measured accordingly.
- Twenty-three JHs wrote their annual work plans for calendar year 2014 with the AJA support.
- The AJA made great advances in the design and implementation of pilot projects in three JHs incorporating the presence of the UARIV and SICJWEB. As of September 2014, 16 JHs of the 24-targeted JHs are now implementing the SICJWEB, compared to only 6 as of at the end of Year One.
- The AJA supported 18 mobile JHs during Year Two. Thirteen of the mobile JHs took place in rural areas, four benefited afro-Colombian populations, and one included members of indigenous communities. The mobile JHs provided a total of 1,832 people with justice services. Of this total, 1,271 were women and 561 men.

- The AJA and the NUCSJ signed a subcontract in December 2013 to, among other activities, implement the Methodology to Implement Community Conciliation (MICE) equity conciliation training process in the Southern Córdoba and Northern Cauca and Southern Valle de Cauca regions.
- The AJA promoted community conciliation with municipal authorities in seven of ten locations where the NUCSJ is completing the MICE process: Pradera and Florida in Valle del Cauca; Miranda, Corinto, Toribío and Caloto in Cauca; and Caucasia in Bajo Cauca, Antioquia.

## **Principal Challenges**

- The APP process has been on hold since the second quarter of Year Two due to the presidential elections and the appointment of a new minister. The AJA's consulting firm, Valfinanzas, is willing to enter into a new sub-contract to accompany the APP-JH proposal through the final approval stages. However, the new Minister of Justice and Law, who was appointed in early August 2014, must first decide to continue with this process.
- Providing support for improving data collection processes related to JH services in the regions and improving reporting capacities is a challenge despite training efforts. Part of the difficulty rests on the fact that the internet connections in many regions are weak or inconsistent. JH officials sometimes do not input complete and accurate information, and users do not register through the Centers for Information Reception (CRI).
- The AJA has been actively working to assist the MJL in designing a strategy and action plan to include the JHs as key actors in the transitional justice process in the event that peace accords are signed between the GOC and the FARC. However, there seems to be little clarity as to what the post conflict period will involve at the local level.

## **Summary of Activities and Achievements**

The AJA's Component One is responsible for achieving two main objectives:

1. Promoting greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening JHs; and
2. Promoting greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening ADR mechanisms, outside of the context of JHs.

During Year Two, the following activities and tasks were completed to achieve the aforementioned activities in each area:

1. **Promoting greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening justice houses.**

### *New Justice Houses Exit Strategy for Concluding AJA Support of the National Program for Justice Houses (NPJH)*

At the request of USAID, the AJA designed an Exit Strategy for gradually reducing USAID support for the NPJH and making the 24 targeted JHs more sustainable over the next year. It was approved by the Mission Director on April 4, 2014. As such, support for the establishment of new justice houses was limited to:

- *San José de Guaviare Justice House:* The AJA provided support to this particular JH in the form of five refurbished computers and 18 new computers, as well as training for the JH induction course on December 2013. The Forensic Medicine Institute began working in the San José de Guaviare JH in August 2014 and a special refrigerator for preserving evidence was installed with AJA support.
- *Florencia Justice House:* This JH was inaugurated on March 5, 2014. The AJA provided assistance that included furniture, communications and computer equipment and signs. In addition, in mid-September along with the MJL, the AJA provided training for the Florencia JH staff, which included assistance in defining the JH 2015 Work Plan.

### *Public-Private Alliance*

During Year Two, the AJA continued supporting the process to procure the approval of the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Department (DNP) of the APP for the construction and maintenance of 50 new Justice Houses (JHs). The AJA contracted expert consultant firm Valfinanzas, drafted the financial, legal and business terms for the proposed JH construction, continued supporting the APP definition process, and accompanied the MJL in meetings to discuss and adjust the proposal with the DNP and the Ministry of Finance. Since the second quarter of 2014, this process was put on hold as the presidential elections campaign became the government priority. During this campaign, nevertheless, the governing presidential candidate, Juan Manuel Santos, promised to double the number of JHs in the country.

### *AJA Exit Strategy for Winding Down AJA Support of the NPJH*

To implement the JH Exit Strategy, a Justice House Development and Sustainability Index (JH Index) was created during this reporting period. JHs will graduate once they receive a score of 61 or greater (out of 100) on the JH Index, at which point they will no longer receive AJA logistical or technical support, apart from a few exceptions described below. This index examines several variables to assess each JH capacity to be sustainable and effective. During Year Two, the first measurement with the JH Index was carried out in 22 JHs in August and September of 2014. This action will provide additional information about what has been undertaken within the JHs in order for them to graduate. Several JHs will certainly graduate following this measurement process.

### *Supporting Current Justice Houses*

Some of the AJA supported activities in support of the current JHs included:

- Three regional meetings were held with 15 JHs in Villavicencio, Tumaco, and San Onofre to discuss their situation, options for strengthening, and possible projects to be supported for this purpose.
- Twenty-three JHs wrote their annual work plans for the calendar year 2014. The great majority did so with AJA support.

During Year Two, the AJA made great advances in the design and implementation of pilot projects in three JHs incorporating the presence of the UARIV that include:

- Strengthening the precise information response that the municipal victims' officers working in JHs give victims by being directly connected to the UARIV register and databases via their Customer Relations Management automated system. The AJA proposes to continue supporting this activity in the San Onofre, Zaragoza, Cáceres, and Nechí JHs in coordination with UARIV.
- Planning for four regional training sessions undertaken with the Reparation Training School of the UARIV and the MJL to examine the actions UARIV is carrying out in each region and exploring ways in which JHs can support these efforts or others related to the post-conflict period.
- Child victims of violence (affected as a result of the internal conflict, criminal conduct, and family violence) receive support to develop awareness of their rights and violence prevention life skills and to reinforce personal development by way of guided play and values-based community programs. This type of activity will be coordinated with the Rioblanco and Chaparral JHs. The AJA received proposals for executing each of these projects on September 30, 2014 and they are expected to begin early in the next quarter.
- Project design is underway with ANSPE to provide legal advice and basic legal training for the new house owners and their families in the Santa Helena free housing project in Chaparral. The Chaparral JH will receive AJA support to carry out these activities in coordination with the ANSPE municipal representatives who undertake social support actions for this population. The houses were officially given to the beneficiary families on September 27, 2014.
- Based on a UARIV design, an Emotional Recovery Project for children will be piloted in Chaparral, one of the 24 pilot locations, during the last months of 2014. This pilot is being coordinated with the Chaparral JH.

Providing support for improving data collection related to regional JH services has proven difficult despite training efforts such as:

- JH staff training provided to 24 JHs in December 2013 supporting MJL DADR efforts to use the SICJWEB.
- In August, a SICJWEB training was held in Medellín for 12 JHs (ten in Antioquia and two in Medellín) with AJA support. The MJL now recognizes the SICJWEB as an integral and important part of the NJHP. This group included the Anorí JH, which has been using the SICJWEB since September 2014.

During Year Two, with AJA support, the MJL produced the first biannual JH reports using the SICJWEB system. Since this was a first effort to produce reports based on SICJWEB data received in the MJL, the model report was discussed with DADR staff on September 3, 2014. A simple report format was used, as the quality of the information gathered by SICJWEB is still not highly reliable given that there is evidence of significant loss or underreporting of information. This phenomenon may occur as a result of JH users not reporting to the CRI at all, or if they do so as an initial user, they then often subsequently access JH services without returning to the CRI for each new service. Additionally, a variety of circumstances such as lack of electricity or staff in the CRI interrupt the registering of information, which is not recovered later. Other issues exposed by these preliminary reports include inadequate definition of some fields, such as “type of request made to the JH,” which results in data being ambiguous or misleading once processed. The DADR is taking steps to try to correct some of these problems.

At the end of September 2014, the AJA distributed 16 biannual JH reports to the MJL and the respective JHs, including Caucaasia, Cáceres, El Bagre, Nechi, Taraza, Zaragoza, Pasto, Villavicencio, Puerto Asís, Mocoa, Puerto Tejada, Santander de Quilichao, Montería, San Onofre, Ibagué, and Chaparral. The AJA has encouraged the MJL and JHs to use the reports to make JH efforts more visible, as well as to facilitate more informed and strategic decision-making.

Special success stories include the Santander de Quilichao and Puerto Asís JHs. In Santander, the Coordinator procured poly-technical staff assistance from SENA to train some of the JH personnel in computer skills to accompany them in using the SIJCWEB system. The Puerto Asís JH coordinator sought help from the system engineer in the Mocoa JH to kick-start SICJWEB operations in the Puerto Asís JH.

### *Justice Houses in the Post-Conflict Period*

Preparation for four regional workshops that will be carried out with the MJL, UARIV, and National Historical Memory Center is in process. The inter-institutional group is identifying best practices related to working with victims of the armed conflict, historical memory exercises, and other projects that will be relevant for the post-conflict period. The best-documented example that AJA has helped structure is San Onofre JH work with the

UARIV and victims of the armed conflict. This activity was presented as a candidate for the Excellence in Justice Prize awarded by the CEJ. At least eight best practices related with post-conflict related activities were recognized and documented.

The AJA assisted the MJL in designing a strategy and action plan to include the JHs as key actors in the transitional justice process in the event that peace accords are eventually signed between the GOC and the FARC. The MJL held a discussion group in July to hear opinions on the LJS model and the AJA met with Catalina Díaz, Head of the MJL Transitional Justice Office, and Miguel Samper, Vice Minister of Criminal Policy and Transitional Justice of the MJL. There still is little clarity as to what the post-conflict period will involve at the local level, and the MJL has not provided follow up for designing the project to be carried out by the Popayan JH with the Transitional Justice Fund.

#### *Mobile Justice Houses*

The AJA has supported 18 mobile JHs, nine of which included members of ANSPE families as beneficiaries. Below is a breakdown of mobile JH locations and beneficiaries (See also Attachment 2):

#### **AJA-SUPPORTED MOBILE JUSTICE HOUSES**

Date	Region	Municipalities	Mobile Justice House Users		
			Total	Women	Men
10/18//2013	Bajo Cauca	Nechí	85	55	30
11/22/2013	Bajo Cauca	Cáceres	112	66	46
02/18/2014	Bajo Cauca	Cáceres	248	203	45
02/21/2014	Bajo Cauca	Caucasia	80	35	45
03/14/2014	Bajo Cauca	Tarazá	103	79	24
03/14/2014	Bajo Cauca	Cáceres	124	105	19
03/21/2014	Bajo Cauca	Caucasia	89	79	10
03/29/2014	Bajo Cauca	Anorí	64	45	19
05/09/2014	Montes de María	San Onofre	239	152	87
05/30/2014	Southern Tolima	Chaparral	68	39	29
06/24/2014	Northern Cauca	Santander de Quilichao	70	52	18
07/23/2014	Tumaco	Tumaco	30	20	10
08/22/2014	Tumaco	Tumaco	34	18	16
08/15/2014	Northern Cauca	Puerto Tejada	46	32	14
08/22/2014	Bajo Cauca	Zaragoza	40	29	11
08/15/2014	Bajo Cauca	Nechí	89	51	38
09/19/2014	Northern Cauca	Popayán	104	81	23
09/26/2014	Southern Tolima	Ortega	207	130	77
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>561</b>

In Southern Tolima, the AJA has designed projects to support child victims of the armed conflict and violent crime in Rioblanco and Chaparral, through the use of directed play

strategies that will begin in the first quarter of Year Three.

## **2. Promoting greater access to justice at the community level by establishing and strengthening ADR mechanisms, outside of the context of Justice Houses**

The AJA and the NUCSJ signed a subcontract in December 2013. Among other activities, the NUCSJ will help the MJL improve its capacity to supervise, support, grow, and motivate the work of ECs. During Year Two, the NUCSJ began preliminary fieldwork in four Southern Córdoba municipalities and the five municipalities in the north of Cauca and the south of Valle de Cauca. However, in mid-March, the DADR Director asked the AJA to suspend equity conciliation training in the Southern Córdoba region for unspecified reasons. By mid-May, these issues were resolved, and the NUCSJ fieldwork began in Puerto Libertador, Montelíbano and San José de Uré, Córdoba.

In the six municipalities where NUSJC will provide the refresher courses, the preliminary fieldwork has been completed. These municipalities include El Bagre, Nechí, Zaragoza, Tarazá, Cáceres and Santander de Quilichao. The situation regarding the refresher program in Tierralta, Córdoba is still unclear as DADR has requested that this be abandoned for security reasons. The existing ECs are dispersed in rural areas, and the AJA is waiting for proper security conditions to permit the creation the LJC with a view to using it as a mechanism to assist in contacting the ECs and determining whether it is possible to offer them the refresher course.

The AJA also carried out several surveys to identify ECs who are currently inactive and who may be willing to become active again if adequate support were provided. In Bajo Cauca, for example, only 16 active certified ECs were identified by the AJA, but an additional 27 certified ECs indicated that they were willing to become active again if they were to receive support.

In an effort to establish adequate impact measurement and monitoring mechanisms, the AJA has started to gather signed conciliation agreements in each municipality where JHs have a working relationship with ECs. The first attempt to verify the number of agreements reached in the first months of 2014 took place in May. A total of 1,048 agreements from sixteen JHs are on file and serves as the baseline for a new AJA indicator in this area. In a second exercise, between June and September, 2014, a further 1,108 agreements were reported for 18 JHs. These totals are part of information gathered to respond to the performance monitoring indicator that tracks the number of community conciliation agreements deposited in municipal sites assigned for this purpose. AJA-supported projects to train and strengthen community conciliation efforts all incorporate a commitment to organize a municipal depositary for community conciliation agreements.

The AJA began to promote equity conciliation with municipal authorities in all ten locations where the NUCSJ has initiated the MICE process. As a first step, during September 12-14, 2014, local representatives from Caucasia, Tarazá, San José de Uré, Puerto Libertador, Miranda, Caloto and Florida participated in a training session in Bogotá,

led by the NUCSJ. This sought to provide guidelines for accompanying and supporting the implementation of equity conciliation in their respective communities.

Reaching municipal agreements to ensure sustainability is part of the Third Stage of the MICE methodology, which is generally undertaken in municipalities where new ECs are being selected and trained. These agreements are being promoted by the NUCSJ and should begin producing results in the first semester of 2015.

From September 19-20, in Montes de María, the Project's strategic partner CECAR received training to strengthen its capacity to complete Stage Four of the MICE process with ECs who have been certified in Ovejas, Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto, and San Onofre. CECAR will support and accompany these ECs as they become fully operational and help strengthen municipal commitments to ensure their sustainability. To this end, CECAR has begun to meet with municipal authorities to secure ongoing municipal support for these activities.

In an effort to increase the sustainability of the National Program for Equity Conciliation and incentives for ECs during Year Two, the AJA, through the NUSJC, completed a discussion document regarding the increasing incentives for ECs. The report is ready for discussion first with the MJL and then with other expert groups. While the text offers strong reasons for introducing and sustaining a wide variety of incentives, this process will be politically sensitive as budget requirements may meet resistance at national and local levels. Since DADR in MJL has decided not to form the Equity Conciliation Sub-Committee linked to the National Council for Conciliation and Access to Justice, the AJA has decided to seek other forums for the discussion of the document. While these may lack decision-making faculties they will provide feedback and new suggestions that will allow the document to gain greater credibility and buy-in for its recommendations.

## **3.2 COMPONENT TWO – GENDER**

### **Principal Achievements**

- Planning and implementation of four Regional Roundtables of the NGC on the jurisprudence of gender-related matters at the Colombian High Courts (particularly of the Constitutional Court) for 241 judges and judicial staff in four cities.
- The AJA, through its strategic partner *Iniciativa de Mujeres para la Paz* (IMP), supported the exclusion of ex-paramilitary commander “el Oso” from the Justice and Peace Process.
- The CEJ prepared a methodological tool to be used in its Observatory of Sentences, for identifying the application of a gender perspective in judicial decisions that lays out

standards and jurisprudence of High Courts, and the obligations of Colombia under international treaties and other relevant instruments.

- Coordinated with the AGO to install CAPIVs in Tumaco, Nariño and Chaparral, Tolima.
- Supported the NGC in designing the 2015 Strategic Action Plan, which should be completed by the end of December 2014.
- Strengthened the Network of Women GBV Advocates and of CSOs working on GBV issues. During Year Two, NWA membership increased to 112, and the NWA provided ongoing legal, psychological, and social accompaniment to more than 200 victims of GBV.
- The AJA responded to an AGO request to draft a protocol mandated by the Victims and Land Restitution Law and implemented related training activities to improve the prosecution of sexual violence cases, particularly those occurring during the armed conflict.
- The AJA trained approximately 230 justice operators and members of CSOs on gender and justice issues through its subcontract with the *Alianza de Género*, managed by *Sisma Mujer*.

## Principal Challenges

- Finding organizations to strengthen through grants has been very difficult due to a lack of response. After posting the APS, the AJA only received one proposal from *Casa de la Mujer*, which, after extensive back and forth decided to decline the grant.
- The MCCS proved to be a challenge. Despite efforts to create an inter-institutional agreement among the AGO, UARIV, MJL and *Corporación Mujer Sigue Mis Pasos*, an agreement has been difficult due to personality conflicts and lack of consensus.
- NWA membership has been difficult in some of the Project regions. It has been very problematic finding lawyers and psychologists capable of providing legal representation for victims of GBV particularly in the Southern Córdoba region. To overcome this issue, the AJA, with USAID authorization, added victims themselves to the NWA as individuals with capacity to accompany other victims and has decided to include university legal clinics as members of the NWA to facilitate victim representation.
- With the likely elimination of the Superior Judicial Council (CSJ) during 2015, the NGC will suffer changes, particularly related to the financing of its activities.

## Summary of Activities and Achievements

Component Two of the AJA has three main objectives:

1. Assist the CSJ in promoting gender equity within the Judiciary and with users;
2. Assist other justice sector institutions in improving their ability to respond to GBV or otherwise provide support to women involved in the criminal justice process; and
3. Promote educational activities with citizens to increase their awareness of the legal framework and rights related to gender issues.

During Year Two of the AJA, the following activities and tasks were completed to achieve these objectives:

### **1. Assist the CSJ in promoting gender equity within the Judiciary and with users.**

#### ***National Gender Commission of the Judicial Branch***

During Year Two, the AJA continued to help promote gender equity within the Judiciary and with its users. The AJA has cultivated a strong relationship with the NGC as a whole, and with both its former President Maria Victoria Calle and its current President, Néstor Raúl Correa, Magistrate of the CSJ and first male president of the NGC. Even though the AJA was not able to participate extensively in the creation of the NGC 2014 annual plan, the following activities were supported at the national level:

- *National Annual Roundtable entitled, “From Silence to Words” held in Popayán:* Event hosted more than 200 participants, including judges and magistrates (mostly from the NGC), women leaders, victims, other justice sector operators from Cauca, and university students. The AJA supported the event with the participation of two international experts on gender and access to justice who discussed best practices from their countries on the incorporation of the gender perspective in justice. The international experts were Norma Cruz, a victim and activist for women’s rights in Guatemala, and the Honorable Minou Tavaréz Mirabal, a Congresswoman from the Dominican Republic whose mother’s murder inspired the creation of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- Several victims of sexual violence were invited, at the request of the NGC, to participate in the national roundtable. This action represents an important advance in the methodology of the NGC roundtables since the AJA began supporting them (in addition to the more practical orientated methodology now being utilized). The dialogue in Popayán also gave women victims the opportunity to meet privately with Magistrate Maria Victoria Calle Correa and Magistrate Gustavo Gomez of the State Council, to discuss the obstacles they face when accessing justice and how the ongoing violence in the area affects their rights.

- *International Women's Day*: Additional support to the NGC included an event to commemorate International Women's Day in March, during which the NGC produced four publications that compiled presentations given by individual magistrates during the 2013 regional roundtables. The AJA supported the publication of these documents as well as five of the 2013 regional roundtables.

### ***Sectional Gender Committees***

At the regional level, the AJA supported the SGCs through the following activities:

- *Regional Gender Roundtables*: The AJA assisted in the planning and implementation of four NGC Regional Roundtables on the jurisprudence of gender-related matters of the Colombian High Courts, particularly that of the Constitutional Court. These roundtables addressed issues related to the application of the gender perspective in individual cases, gender and transitional justice, and Laws 1257 (No Violence against Women) and 1448 (Victim's and Land Restitution Law). The roundtables are an important tool to motivate judges and other justice sector actors to apply the gender perspective in their work, as well as to learn about how to correctly apply the sentences and other orders emitted by the High Courts and international treaties to which Colombia is a signatory. The AJA has also helped change the dynamic of these roundtables by including civil society and victims as participants for a more practical approach. As a part of the NGC's 2014 Work Plan, two Regional Roundtables are still pending in Tumaco and Pasto, which were suspended for security reasons, and which the AJA will support during the first or second quarter of Year Three. Below is a breakdown of the Gender Roundtables supported by the AJA in Year Two.

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### **GENDER ROUNDTABLES – OCT. 1, 2013 – SEP. 30 2014**

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<b>Place</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Villavicencio	July 7, 2014	54
Montería	July 14, 2014	66
Sincelejo	July 15, 2014	51
Mocoa	September 8, 2014	70
<b>Total Participants</b>		<b>241</b>

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Other SGC activities supported through the AJA regional offices include the following:

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## OTHER SGC ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE AJA

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Region	Activities
Bajo Cauca	Support provided to the III SGC Seminar for Antioquia (November 25, 2013) regarding the possible implementation of a specialized GBV jurisdiction in Colombia, one of the few countries in the region that does not have one.  The University of Antioquia presented to the AJA a document, drafted in coordination with the Antioquia SGC, which includes a route to promote a differential gender approach in the Judiciary. Based on this document, the SGC designed a brochure that describes the routes to access to justice for GBV victims, currently under review.
Montes de María	Reactivation of the Sucre SGC is being supported and the strengthening of the Bolívar SGC is well underway.
Tolima	The University of Ibagué presented a document created with the SGC with a territorial focus that outlines a strategy to implement the differential approach in the Judiciary. This document is under review.
Southern Córdoba	An inter-institutional agreement was signed between the President of the SGC, magistrates, judges and prosecutors to facilitate coordination among the different actors.

In an effort to disseminate jurisprudence on gender-related issues, the CEJ prepared a methodological tool, as a part of its Observatory of Sentences, for identifying the application of a gender perspective in judicial decisions. This tool lays out the standards of High Courts, international treaties, and other relevant instruments and provides guidance on how to apply them. The CEJ presented this tool to rapporteurs at the Colombian High Courts and Tribunals in Bogotá to use for identifying and categorizing gender issues in cases. This methodological tool will help regional offices and SGCs analyze and process rape, child support, maternity leave and mortality cases, as well as to identify training and other needs for the judges at the local level.

In support of the Observatory of Sentences, the AJA compiled and analyzed 61 relevant sentences from the targeted regions to determine the baseline for the number of sentences that correctly applied the gender perspective (See Attachment 3).

Once the baseline data is established and fully analyzed, the AJA will work with the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial School to include the evaluation methodology and the instrument in the design and implementation of training for judges nationwide. This activity will generate knowledge and awareness of the gender perspective's application in all relevant judicial sentences involving gender issues, and increase the number of sentences nationwide that effectively include a gender perspective. In an effort to expand the methodology, the AJA will include the analysis of sentences for crimes that are more

common in AJA regions as part of the methodology. The additional crimes to be included are rape of persons under 14 years of age, failing to make child support payments, and femicide.

The AJA is supporting the NGC in designing its 2015 action plan, which should be completed by the end of December 2014. The AJA will support the incorporation of the Gender Equity and Non-Discrimination Resolution of the Judicial Branch (Resolution No. PSAA 12-9721) into the plan, which covers strategic planning, training, information dissemination, inter-institutional coordination, and better statistics. The AJA will provide direct support in NGC activities that include: (1) statistical reporting (evaluation of instruments to propose new NGC indicators, using the CEJ methodology); (2) training; (3) inter-institutional coordination; and (4) dissemination.

During Year Two, the AJA continued to work on plans to strengthen and/or incorporate access to justice and gender issues into the existing regional gender observatories in the following regions:

Region	Gender Observatory
Bajo Cauca	The Office of the Governor of Antioquia and the University of Antioquia agreed to include the gender perspective as a line of observation in the Bajo Cauca Regional Observatory for the Justice System, which is in the process of being designed.
Tumaco	The University of Nariño presented a proposal to the AJA to implement a justice gender observatory in Tumaco.
Montes de María	CECAR created a human rights and international human rights documentation center that will have a gender focus and through which studies and investigations will be completed. The center will also support the standardization and analysis of information recompiled by CECAR's Family Center, Social and Legal Attention Center, and the Legal Clinic to identify and understand the dynamics and the way in which GBV is expressed in the region and how institutions respond to it.
Macarena	The University of Santo Tomás presented a document to apply indicators related to access to justice in GBV in the Macarena region using the year 2012 as a baseline.

## **2. Assist other justice sector institutions in improving their ability to respond to gender-based violence or otherwise provide support to women involved in the criminal justice process.**

One of the primary objectives of the AJA in Component Two is to assist other justice sector institutions improve their ability to respond to GBV or otherwise provide support to women involved in the criminal justice process. In order to achieve this objective, the AJA has begun coordinating with the AGO to create and strengthen CAPIVs in Tumaco, Nariño and Chaparral, Tolima. Other possible candidates include Carmen de Bolívar, Granada, and Santander de Quilichao.

During this year, the AJA received approval to create CAPIVs within various AGO entities: 1) Sectional AGO Offices in Ibagué and Tumaco; 2) the National Administrative Office; 3) the new Public Policy Office; 4) new SAVU; and 5) the National Sectional Director. The AJA received the CAPIV design for Tumaco and has quoted the furnishing and outfitting of the building in Tumaco (which needs to be discussed with USAID to determine the level of support that the AJA will provide). In Chaparral, the AJA is waiting for the AGO National Constructions Unit to carry out a site visit. The creation of the CAPIVs was greatly delayed by the restructuring of the AGO at the national level.

During Year Two, the AGO requested AJA assistance in the drafting of a protocol and the related training necessary for the prosecution of sexual violence cases. The Victims Law (Law 1448 of 2011) mandates production and use of this protocol, and for the last two years, civil society groups have lobbied the AGO to actually define and implement it. The AJA will support this activity through a grant with *Sisma Mujer*. The United States Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and OPDAT will participate in the working group.

The NWA held two strategic meetings during the year in which the following issues were defined:

- The role of each member was defined, and *Corporacion Mujer Sigue Mis Pasos* was nominated to occupy the role of Technical Secretary;
- The creation of a web page to support NWA members. The University of Nariño agreed to host the site;
- Models to accompany GBV victims were discussed and an instrument to document GBV cases was designed and will be implemented; and
- NWA members were trained on providing psychological and social assistance to victims of GBV as well as on transitional justice issues.

Other accomplishments of the NWA included a meeting with the MJL Human Rights Program and women victims from the region of Bolívar to analyze their security situation. In addition, with support from the National Protection Unit and *Somos Defensores*, two women leaders threatened for exercising their access to justice rights were relocated and the NWA's Technical Secretary is closely monitoring their situation.

### **3. To promote educational activities with citizens and increase their awareness of the legal frameworks related to gender issues.**

During Year Two, the AJA identified three organizations to receive grants: 1) *Casa de la Mujer*, to align civil law and Law 1448 in order to guarantee increased women's access to land restitution; 2) *Sisma Mujer*, to formulate an investigative protocol for sexual crimes; and 3) *Corporación Mujer Sigue Mis Pasos*, to advocate for the rights of victims of GBV. *Casa de la Mujer* declined the grant based on some sensitive questions raised through the technical evaluation committee and because of alternate funding received through the

British Government. *Sisma Mujer's* grant will be signed at the beginning of Year 3, and the AJA is waiting for *Corporacion Mujer Sigue Mis Pasos* to present a proposal for a grant.

### AJA-SUPPORTED GENDER BASED VIOLENCE TRAININGS

Type of Actor	Organization	Topic	Municipality	Date	Participants
Justice Operators	Humanizar	Gender and Justice	Caucasia	March 4,5,6	30
			Sincelejo	April 8, 9, 10	21
			Chaparral	May 6, 7, 8	15
	Total				66
NWA CSOs	Sisma Mujer	Law 1257 of 2008	Caucasia	May 20-22	21
			Sincelejo	March 5-7	16
			Chaparral	April 9,10, 11	30
	IMP	Law 975 of 2005 Law 1448 of 2011 Law 1719 of 2014	Caucasia	August 13-15	24
			Sincelejo	July 23-25	20
			Chaparral	August 20-22	23
	Total				134

The anti-GBV campaign entitled “*Sin Mi Puño y Con mi Letra*” was adapted for Montes de María and Southern Tolima, and it will be launched on November 25, 2014. In the grant with *Humanizar*, Antioquia had been identified as the third region where the campaign would be disseminated. However, at the last minute, the Governor’s Office requested that we support a campaign that it had already designed, so the AJA decided to carry out the third campaign with *Humanizar* and the *Red Nacional de Mujeres* in the North Cauca region in early 2015.

The final Component Two objective is the signing of an MOU with the CSJ. The draft MOU is currently being revised by the NGC.

As a key activity of the NWA during Year Two, the AJA supported MCCSs in the following regions:

### AJA-SUPPORTED MCCS

Date and Place	Departments	Number of Participants	AJA Support
Sincelejo - October 2-4, 2013	Sucre	51	Financial Technical
La Cocha, Nariño - December 11-14, 2013	Nariño	108	Financial Technical
	Putumayo		
Valledupar - February 13-15, 2014	Cesar	51	Technical
Total		210	

The MCCS model was designed with extensive AJA support to encourage and support women victims to submit their criminal complaints in individual rape cases, as well as to register as victims with the UARIV in the national registry to receive reparations. Under the model, the MCCS are held at a location outside the villages and towns in which the women live in order to provide women a safer environment to register their complaints and minimize the risk of reporting to local authorities, where the widespread perception is that information is often leaked to the perpetrators.



Per USAID's request, the AJA ceased its provision of financial, technical and logistical support for MCCSs following the events in Nariño and Cesar, due to lack of coordination among the MJL, the UARIV, the AGO, and the CSOs involved. In Year Three, the AJA hopes to facilitate an inter-institutional coordination agreement with the participating government agencies to move forward with additional sessions in Project regions. The AJA is also planning

to support the creation and implementation of adequate inter-institutional follow-up mechanisms in the AGO, UARIV and MJL for the cases of the victims who participate in the MCCS.

During Year Two, the AJA supported additional training on gender and GBV in the regions where the project has a presence, including:

#### **AJA-SUPPORTED GENDER/GBV TRAININGS**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Training</b>
Bajo Cauca	With support from the Governor of Antioquia's Office, a "training of trainers" workshop was conducted on gender issues. The workshop was conducted in Cauca and El Bagre and included 60 participants.
Tumaco	USP University of Nariño presented the AJA the methodology for a Diploma about Mediation and Differential Focus. The Diploma Course should be completed by February 2015.
Southern Córdoba	A Gender and Justice Workshop was conducted for Justice Operators for 37 people, including magistrates, judges and prosecutors (May 14, 2014) in Montería.
La Macarena	The University of Santo Tomás presented a training proposal on Gender and Access to Justice with a territorial approach in the last quarter of 2014.

During the reporting period, the AJA Gender Component Coordinator took part in a number of high-level GBV panels and activities to raise awareness about sexual violence in the context of armed conflict. Events included:

- The Global Summit on Sexual Violence in London, England. The event was hosted by the Foreign Secretary William Hague, and led by the UN Ambassador for Refugees Angelina Jolie (June 10-13);
- The national newspaper *El Tiempo* organized a forum on GBV, “*Diálogos en Blanco Púrpura*”. International cooperation agencies, donors, and national institutions took part in Bogotá. The AJA Gender Component Coordinator and other GBV experts moderated a forum component called “Readings and Analysis of Sexual Violence in the Armed Conflict” (April 23); and
- *El Tiempo* and Jineth Bedoya (a high-profile victim of sexual violence) organized a forum in Cartagena on sexual violence in the armed conflict. The Gender Component Coordinator moderated a discussion of a forum component called “Stories of Women Survivors,” empowering women victims of sexual violence and leaders (May 15-16).

An important objective of the AJA during the reporting period, in a manner consistent with the US State Department Gender Policy, was to empower the women with whom the AJA works. The AJA has actively worked to empower the women who have worked with or been the beneficiary of the Project’s work, producing impressive results. Many of the members of the victims group, *Corporación Mujer Sigue Mis Pasos*, have been empowered in the access to justice field, and now are so well-versed in the theme that many of the leaders have been invited as participants in several important national events (i.e. victims roundtables related to the peace process), the peace process negotiations in Havana, Cuba and to international events, such as the Global Summit on Sexual Violence in London, England.

In addition, during this reporting period the AJA supported our strategic partner IMP of the *Alianza de Género* in the exclusion of paramilitary leader Marco Tulio Perez, alias “El Oso,” from the Justice and Peace regime for not confessing to sexual crimes. The request, originally accepted by the Justice and Peace Magistrate, was appealed by the defense and the AJA is waiting for the next hearing to take place. “El Oso” would be the first paramilitary leader to be excluded from the Justice and Peace process for not confessing to sexual violence crimes within the armed conflict.

### **3.3 COMPONENT THREE – JUSTICE REFORM**

The AJA continued to support the advancement of reforms to increase productivity in Colombian justice sector institutions that have an impact in CZs. Significant progress to achieve program goals took place in all three subcomponents: (1) the specialized land restitution jurisdiction; (2) SPA implementation; and (3) LJs. Challenges to select justice reform initiatives also occurred, but overall, the quality of legal services in CZs has improved greatly as a result of AJA involvement.

## Principal Achievements

### *Specialized Land Restitution Jurisdiction*

- The CEJ-operated Land Restitution Observatory (LRO) monitored the judicial phase of land restitution and reparation for dispossessed victims of the armed conflict by measuring court and tribunal coverage, due process, and judge and magistrate order quality and effectiveness.
- Based on LRO recommendations, LRCs and LRTs adopted preventive and corrective administrative and procedural reforms to increase efficiency.
- The AJA helped create four regional “replica” LROs to decentralize problem-solving approaches for land restitution procedures and outcomes (located in the Bajo Cauca, Southern Tolima, Montes de María and La Macarena regions).
- Leading magistrates broadly acknowledged a need for ongoing reforms in the judicial phase of the land restitution process.
- The AJA fostered a judicial culture based on trust, participation, proactivity, teamwork, and the use of information technology.
- Land restitution officials designed a management model to help create an elite group of judges. The model focuses on interoperability, zero paper, knowledge management, security, differential rights approaches, and transparency.
- The AJA encouraged increased cooperation, participation and ownership, and improved judicial government among judicial land restitution stakeholders by supporting the creation and strengthening of five permanent National Thematic Committees on: (1) security; (2) training; (3) processes and procedures; (4) information technology; and (5) inter-institutional coordination. The AJA recently secured the SJC financing (in the amount of \$50,000) for the ongoing work of these committees in 2015.

### *Strengthening SPA Implementation*

- With AJA support, LJC participants participated in six capacity-building seminars, including the training of 302 formal and administrative justice sector actors in criminal investigation techniques.
- In partnership with the CEJ, the AJA reviewed and analyzed SPA implementation through increased capacity at CISPAs and regional forums evaluating major obstacles.
- AJA consultants conducted a baseline study that led to suggestions in improving curricula, teaching methodology, and learning impact at eleven universities in CZs.

- The AJA ensured the sustainability of inter-university moot court competitions by creating a strategy for the transfer of this activity to local actors in association with ACOFADE.

#### *Local Justice Coordinating Committees*

- The AJA assisted government agencies with the creation and/or strengthening of 28 LJs aimed at overcoming barriers to access to justice, increasing inter-institutional coordination, and increasing and meeting the demand for effective judicial and legal services at the local level.
- LJs consolidated their operations with action plans, coordination protocols, skills development, and civil rights campaigns.
- Mobile justice and legal aid brigades offered legal services and achieved formal government presence in rural areas usually outside the influence of the state, providing services to over 2,040 persons.
- Counseling and legal representation services reached vulnerable populations in rural communities through new virtual legal clinics (digital kiosks) designed in collaboration with law schools and the MITC.
- The AJA supported the development of ISO 9001:2008 quality management systems in order to improve court administration in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar courts.

### **Principal Challenges**

- Advanced operation of four regional replica LROs, including the creation of a national composite table detailing bottlenecks in the implementation of Law 1448 and subsequent adoption of recommendations for improvement.
- Formal incorporation of the ISO-9001 methodology for the specialized land restitution jurisdiction through security and inter-institutional coordination protocols to apply differential rights approaches, the zero paper policy, and transparency and accountability safeguards.
- Reinforcement of operational procedures at National Thematic Committees (training, internal communications, coordination among committees, and activity and knowledge management) for potential duplication by other jurisdictions.
- Promotion of the benefits offered by National Thematic Committees to change and good judicial governance with the Colombian High Courts.
- Ongoing establishment and support of new LJs in CZs.

- Expansion of access to justice by LJs through on-site psychosocial services, virtual and radio legal clinics, and mobile justice brigades.
- Execution of ISO-9001 in the Judicial Circuit of Chaparral, Tolima.
- Replication of the gender focus law clinic model in additional CZs.
- Collaboration between UACT, MITC, and AJA to increase legal services coverage at virtual legal clinics (digital kiosks).

## **Summary of Activities and Achievements**

### ***Specialized Land Restitution Jurisdiction***

The AJA achieved important technical advances in support of the functioning of LRCs and LRTs.

### ***Building an Elite Class of Land Restitution Judges and Magistrates***

In cooperation with the SJC and with support from US Federal Judge Frank Montalvo, the AJA supported the creation and integration of five National Thematic Committees for land restitution jurisdiction in the following themes: security; inter-institutional coordination; processes and procedures; training; and information technology. Experts assisted the committees to define operational policies, regulations, procedures, activity creation and prioritization, information resources, and communication networks. The AJA co-sponsored a national meeting of LRC and LRT judges and magistrates with *DeJusticia* and the UARIV to discuss the ongoing progress of committee initiatives and improvement of judicial and administrative operations in the specialized land restitution jurisdiction overall. In addition, the National Thematic Committees for Processes and Procedures, Inter-Institutional Coordination, and Training worked with the AJA to draft a protocol to establish minimum standards for the acceptance of land restitution applications from the executive branch Land Restitution Units (LRUs) that handle the first and administrative part of the land restitution process. They are currently working on a protocols regarding minimum acceptance standards for collective (i.e. indigenous groups) restitution applications, the collection of evidence (both at the LRU and LRT/LRC levels) and the efficient management of the post-decision or execution phase of the land restitution process.

USAID/Colombia approved an action plan for the design and implementation of a court management model pilot project for LRCs and LRTs in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar. Select LRC and LRT officials actively participated in capacity-building workshops covering quality assurance, strategic planning, and differential gender and indigenous approaches, and are now applying improved and more efficient procedures to their work. This model will be replicated in the Medellín LRCs and LRTs in early 2015, and then in all

the other LRCs and LRTs at the national level (in 23 different judicial complexes) during the first half of 2015.

In preparation for an observational visit by land restitution judges and magistrates to the agrarian courts of Costa Rica and Puerto Rico, the AJA developed a contest to identify internal court administration and external inter-institutional coordination best practices at LRCs and LRTs. The program will reward LRCs or LRTs displaying best practices with the planned study tour in Costa Rica or Puerto Rico.

### *Supporting LRC information technology needs*

The AJA assisted relevant counterparts with the compilation of information required for the design and implementation of zero paper pilot courts, including the adaptation of technology and equipment resources needed. As part of this assistance, the AJA, through the National Thematic Information Technology Committee, supported development and improvement of software (*Justicia XXI*) to facilitate the transfer of information among LRUs, LRCs, LRTs, and various land registries. Furthermore, land restitution judges and magistrates learned the skills necessary for processing zero paper cases through AJA-sponsored workshops, and LRCs and LRTs in Ibagué and Bogotá processed the first-ever zero paper case in Colombia in mid-2014.

In addition to the zero paper pilot, the AJA assisted with a baseline diagnostic study of an information technology security plan for the specialized land restitution jurisdiction. The National Thematic Committee for Information Technology agreed to monitor the future design and implementation of information technology security tasks. The resulting plan will serve as an important contribution to the pilot court management models in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar.

### *Training Land Restitution Judges*

The National Thematic Committee for Training and the AJA collaborated to identify training needs for land restitution officials and to carry out specialized courses. Specific workshops and seminars highlighted differential approaches, change management, security, strategic planning, mining, victim testimony, property identification, registration law, environmental regulations, gender, international standards, and displacement. The Committee organized these trainings by region.

The AJA sponsored on-site awareness and training for justice actors on the quality-based management process under ISO 9001:2008 as part of the pilot court management initiative in Cartagena and Carmen de Bolívar.

The AJA hosted national meetings among a wide array of justice sector stakeholders to exchange experiences, coordinate, and discuss the establishment of minimum requirements for land restitution applications and judgments both generally and by differential approach. Moreover, to encourage further coordination, the AJA broadly shared the baseline

diagnostics and recommendations of the LRO with relevant judges, magistrates, National Thematic Committees, and other Colombian counterparts.

#### *Addressing corruption risks within LRCs*

As part of the pilot court management model, the AJA helped jumpstart plans for the design and implementation of a corruption risk map following the clear establishment of processes and procedures.

#### *Land Restitution Observatory*

The CEJ designed, presented and began implementing the LRO in conjunction with four regional universities, the National Thematic Committee for Inter-Institutional Coordination, and other land restitution stakeholders. The LRO monitors five lines of observation: universal coverage; respect for due process; quality of judicial orders; quality and effectiveness of judicial decisions; and standard application of law across jurisdictions. Criteria for the uniform review of cases proposed by the LRO include grounds for compensation, causes for invalidity, good faith third party opponents, and inconsistencies among judgments and the application of orders. Four regional replicas of the LRO are underway in Tolima (Ibagué), Meta (Villavicencio, particularly for the Puerto Gaitán region), Antioquia (Medellin, but geared towards the Apartadó and Southern Córdoba regions), and Bolívar/Sucre (Sincelejo, for the Montes de María region).

#### *Addressing security risks within LRCs*

The AJA led the effort to draw up security plans for the 23 judicial complexes with LRCs and LRTs. Baseline studies measured threats before AJA partners helped design plans to improve information, infrastructure, and personal security. Judges and magistrates from the specialized land restitution jurisdiction and the National Thematic Committee for Security reviewed the plans. This particular Committee also assessed progress made, implemented corrective measures and workshops, and developed a protocol for threat management in addition to backing the plans. The National Thematic Committee for Security specifically intervened on behalf of judges facing threats in Buga, Apartadó, and Barrancabermeja, and helped secure protective measures.

The AJA helped write a draft decree which would include land restitution judges and magistrates in the list of officials benefitting from the nationwide protection program. The Project also sponsored on-site training for land restitution judges and magistrates on preventive personal and information security, which resulted in individual security risk prevention strategies for LRCs and LRTs.

#### ***Strengthening SPA Implementation***

The AJA accomplished activities to support the continued implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code (SPA).

### *Support to CISPA*

The AJA supports CISPA through a grant with the CEJ, its technical secretariat. This partnership assisted CISPA in the development of trainings, discussion of legal reforms, budget planning for 2014, and oversight of the SPA Observatory. The AJA and CEJ also reported on SPA progress on efficiency and effectiveness, the fight against organized crime, victim's assistance, and public confidence in the justice system. Both partners agreed on a methodology for a public relations campaign to highlight the advantages of the SPA in the CZs. The CEJ, through its grant with the AJA, regularly updates the CISPA website with jurisprudence, regulatory developments, and best practices in the sector.

The AJA and CEJ proposed an adjustment to CISPA indicators going forward, including differential indicators focusing on gender statistics. Academics and justice sector actors in Bogotá and CZs participated in discussion forums on these and other proposed reforms to the SPA.

### *Technical assistance and training to law schools*

A team of AJA experts conducted a baseline diagnostic study at 11 targeted law schools at universities in the CZs. This survey evaluated curricula and SPA analysis and instruction. The AJA team presented the findings and encouraged the discussion of results among leaders at each university. After the baseline study, the AJA supported the development and presentation of a curriculum model for teaching criminal procedure and oral advocacy skills, including the standardization of content, strategies, instruction methods, and a results-based review. The AJA developed a procedure to measure impact of these changes and convened working groups to generate input from key stakeholders.

The AJA advised on management plans for legal clinics and legal aid offices in cooperation with the 11 universities in the CZs. A comprehensive model addressed the vision, mission, organizational structure, operational procedure, quality assurance, funding, sustainability, human resources, and guidelines for managing this type of activity.

In collaboration with the DOJ and the ACOFADE, the AJA created and initiated a network of criminal law professors to make advances in teaching methodologies, coursework, and SPA assessment sustainable. The AJA and DOJ designed a strategy to make this activity sustainable by transferring ownership to ACOFADE after sponsoring the semifinals and finals of the 2014 National Mock Trial Competition. A total of 464 students participated in the Mock Trial Competition. ACOFADE received materials from the DOJ and the AJA to continue developing the oral argument skills of law students. With the upcoming contract modification, the AJA will no longer provide support for the Mock Trial Competitions, as this will be handled at the regional level with ACOFADE assistance. The AJA's focus on legal education will instead shift to strengthening law school access to justice programs, such as legal clinics and work with ECs.

### ***Local Justice Coordinating Committees***

The AJA promoted local service delivery and court administration reform to increase access to justice in Colombia.

#### ***Strengthening local justice systems in coordination with the MJL and the UACT***

Through cooperation with regional strategic partners, the AJA carried out assessments of the barriers to access to justice in Bajo Cauca, Montes de María, Tumaco, Córdoba, and La Macarena. In most areas, and when security permitted, the AJA shared findings and recommendations with the LJC. Then, the LJC evaluated the results, outlined tasks, prioritized activity plans, and coordinated actions to alleviate or overcome the obstacles identified. The AJA updated maps of justice providers in these regions and coordinated with LJC to meet resources needed by public defenders, judges, prosecutors, equity conciliators, and other stakeholders. The AJA created and/or strengthened (in the case of the six LJC in the La Macarena region) a total of 28 LJC in the following municipalities:

- Bajo Cauca: Cauca, Cáceres, El Bagre, Nechi, Tarazá, Zaragoza, Anorí, Briceño, Ituango, and Valdivia;
- Córdoba: Montelíbano, Puerto Libertador, and San José de Uré;
- Montes de María: Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto, Ovejas, and San Onofre;
- La Macarena: Uribe, Macarena, San Juan de Arama, Vistahermosa, Mesetas, and Puerto Rico; and
- Nariño: Tumaco.

The AJA designed and implemented the approach for the development and strengthening of local justice systems in conjunction with the MJL and UACT. After detailed collaboration, the AJA disseminated the strategy to strategic partners, regional advisors, and justice providers. This activity allowed for the creation of a local forum for coordinated action to meet citizen demand for justice services in an efficient, transparent, and timely manner while accounting for differential approaches aimed at vulnerable populations. Since program inception, the AJA has assisted with the creation of 22 LJC in CZs and supported the strengthening of the functioning of six more in La Macarena. In Tierralta and Valencia (Córdoba), public outreach and meetings with relevant local authorities, the public and indigenous communities will favor the future creation of LJC in these municipalities once security conditions permit.

The AJA sponsored roundtables and trainings on SPA-related themes in each region. A total of 302 criminal justice providers participated and provided positive feedback for the activities. As part of this activity, the AJA offered resources to assist local criminal justice providers with more efficient case management. In Macarena, USAID/Colombia *Responde* joined with the AJA to conduct a diploma-training program for LJC members on rights, good governance and strategic and practical aspects of developing strong and sustainable local justice coordination systems. The AJA also worked with regional strategic partners to

develop skills development seminars covering differential rights approaches in Tumaco, southern Tolima, and Bajo Cauca.

Through AJA support, LJs and USPs from Southern Tolima, Bajo Cauca, Montes de María, and Tumaco offered mobile justice brigades and legal clinics to increase service delivery to rural areas, providing services to over 967 persons. The MITC and UATC agreed to work with the AJA to continue the development of virtual legal clinics using the digital kiosks that are being created in the CZs. So far, the AJA supported implementation of on-site, radio and virtual legal aid clinics with strategic partner universities, and a virtual gender legal clinic is operational for GBV victims in Tumaco. In coordination with the LJs, legal clinics are also functioning in Bajo Cauca (through the University of Medellín), Southern Córdoba (through the Pastoral Social of Montelíbano), Montes de María (through CECAR) and Meta (with AJA SP the University of Santo Tomás).

#### *Improving court administration in CSDI municipalities*

The AJA advanced considerably in supporting a quality-based reengineering exercise for the judicial circuit courts in Carmen de Bolívar and the administrative courts and the LRT in Cartagena. AJA consultants have worked with counterparts to outline current operational strengths and weaknesses and to adopt improvement plans. Justice providers created quality committees to evaluate implementation of these plans based on clear indicators of success. In Carmen and Cartagena, improved procedures are already functioning efficiently in the LRCs and the LRT, and improved procedures are about to be implemented in the other five courts in Carmen and in the administrative courts in Cartagena. The AJA recently signed a new sub-contract with SP the University of Ibagué to carry out a similar exercise in the judicial circuit courts of Chaparral, Tolima.

## 4.0 COMMUNICATIONS

### 4.1 PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- During Year Two, the AJA held a National Communications Meeting in March to train the technical AJA team (from Bogotá and six regional offices) on communications aspects and adequate compliance with branding and marking (ADS 320) regulations for contracts and grants.
- The *Justicia al Dia* newsletter has been greatly improved and is also being produced at the local level in several AJA-targeted regions.
- The AJA is developing a tool-kit that includes communication pieces like radio spots, brochures, booklets, flyers and posters to be used in the regions in coordination with the LJC's.

### 4.2 PRINCIPAL CHALLENGES

- Guarantee that the mass media in the regions where AJA is present has knowledge and tools to communicate AJA initiatives, specifically those related to justice and gender.
- Raise national and regional-level awareness on anti-GBV through new and existing campaigns.
- Ensure that the communities where AJA implements actions through the LJC's, Justice Houses and equity conciliators, have better communications tools.
- Achieve an agreement with at least one media outlet in each region that can contribute to the dissemination of information on a constant basis during the rest of the AJA.

### 4.3 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The AJA communications strategy made great advances during Year Two. Some of its priorities and highlights included:

- The first seminar for journalists was offered on July 9 in Cauca, Bajo Cauca in coordination with the University of Antioquia, the UACT and the Government of Antioquia. Participants included 24 journalists from five of the ten AJA-targeted municipalities in the region.

- The AJA supported its strategic partners in the development of their communications strategies and action plans, to help strengthen their role in the dissemination of project activities, achievements and impact.
- The AJA Communications Specialist and the UACT National Communications Coordinator agreed to develop joint activities based on each organization's strategy and communications protocols. This effort became effective in March. As a result, the AJA has an ongoing presence in the UACT's social networks, Web page, press releases and events.
- The AJA supported the Tumaco Mayor's Office institutional campaign entitled "*Consienteme, no me ofendas*" by organizing a dissemination plan and discussion groups.
- The AJA supported the development of six workshops on the Criminal Justice System conducted in six project regions.

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